JBLM Safety Office

Holiday Safety Reminder

Holiday Season Home Fire Safety

Every year hundreds of fires, resulting in injuries and deaths, are caused by the careless acts of individuals. Smoking in bed, unmonitored cooking, and misuse of supplemental heating equipment account for many of these fires. Simply learning to be more diligent and practicing fire safety can eliminate the needless loss of property, serious injury, and even death.

- **Cigarettes** and other smoking materials are the number on cause of home fire deaths in the United States. ***Never, never, never smoke in bed!***
- **Cooking** fires are the number one cause of home fires in the United States killing hundreds and injuring thousands annually. Supervise all kitchen activities and never leave cooking unattended.
- **Home heating equipment** fires are the second leading cause of home fires and related deaths in the United States each year. Properly maintain heating equipment and use supplemental heating appliances such as portable and space heaters, fireplaces, and wood-burning stoves with extreme caution. Be advised that these types of devices are prohibited from use in all Government facilities.
- **Candle** fires in the home increase during the holiday season. The use of open flame candles is prohibited in all Government facilities with the following exceptions: Community chapels during religious services and places of assembly on special occasions with the written permission of the Base Support Battalion Commander.
- **Smoke detectors** save lives! All on-post Army Family Housing units have hard-wired smoke detectors installed, but if you live off-post, the investment in smoke detectors is an absolute necessity.
- **Christmas trees** were the first thing ignited in 3000 home fires in the United States in 1998 primarily caused by faulty or misused wiring. Never place lit candles on a tree. Ensure proper lighting is used for decorating and keep trees moist and away from heat sources.
- **Escape plans** are a good part of an overall home fire safety plan. Practice your home fire drill with the entire family at least twice a year.

Protect yourself and your family
this holiday season - think fire safety!